

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:ICARSTONES;GECORIDEN:MAJ

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:GECORIDEN

EUR/EE - NANDREWS

USIA/IEU - JSADLIK

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P 210322Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS): LOS ANGELES
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REF: BUCHAREST 0886

1. DEPT. SYMPATHETIC TO EMBASSY'S DESIRE FOR ORCHESTRA'S
APPEARANCE IN ROMANIA BUT REGRETS THAT OTHER
CONSIDERATIONS RULE OUT ROMANIAN APPEARANCE FOR THIS
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THIS TIME.

2. DEPT. FEELS THAT CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH OTHER EE LOCAL CONCERT AGENCIES AS WELL AS ARIA
COUPLED WITH GOR GENERALLY UNSATISFACTORY COOPERATION
IN THIS FIELD MAKE IT SENSIBLE TO CANCEL ORCHESTRA'S
APPEARANCE IN ROMANIA. ARIA'S STATED WILLINGNESS SUPPORT
MAJOR AMERICAN ARTISTIC GROUPS HAS, OVER THE YEARS,
REMAINED CONSTANT AS HAS ARIA'S LAST MINUTE
DETERMINATION THAT INITIALLY REQUESTED FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR SUCH GROUPS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC REASONS
EVEN THOUGH NO HARD CURRENCY IS INVOLVED. BULGARIAN AND
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YUGOSLAV SPONSORS WHICH IN ALMOST SIMILAR ECONOMIC STRAITS

HAVE AGREED SUPPORT TRAVEL FOR LAPO MUSICIANS AND
PROPERTIES PLUS REQUIRED PER DIEM. THE ADDITIONAL

3000 DOLS. FROM GOR WAS LESS THAN TOTAL TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT THE LONG WARSAW-BUCHAREST HOP. IN DISCUSSION
WITH MINISTER GLIGA, DEPT. STATED ISSUES CANDIDLY.

3. WE HOPE THAT ROMANIA'S MODEST EXPENDITURE OF AIR
FARE ON ITS OWN AIRLINE FOR ROMANIAN FOLK GROUP, WHICH
WILL HAVE SEVERAL WEEKS OF EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE IN U.S.
AT USG EXPENSE, WILL AMPLY REPAY GOR INVESTMENT IN
ENHANCED ROMANIAN IMAGE IN U.S. WE WOULD SEE THIS AS
SENSIBLE DECISION ON PART OF GOR BUT ON OTHER SIDE OF
LEDGER FROM GOR INVESTMENT IN LAPO TRAVEL COSTS.

4. SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SECOND APPEARANCE
OF LAPO IN ROMANIA, WE SEE THIS CANCELLATION AS A
USEFUL REMINDER THAT ARIA ACCOMMODATE TO U.S. VIEWS
ON SOME OCCASIONS RATHER THAN A POLITICAL DECISION. WE
SUPPORT EMBASSY'S NEED FOR AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENCE
DURING BICENTENNIAL AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT
ACCOMMODATE TO THIS IN THE COMING MONTHS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE041793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ICARSTONES;GECORIDEN:MAJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0254
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxdw.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUCHAREST 886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS): LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
TAGS: OEXC, RO, LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006